

## New York Tribune.

First to Last—the Truth: News—Editorials—Advertisements.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1915.

Owned and published daily by The Tribune Association, a New York corporation. Editor: M. B. Hall. President: G. Vernon Rogers. Secretary and Treasurer: Address: Tribune Building, No. 124 Nassau Street, New York.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES—By Mail, Postage Paid, outside of Greater New York.**  
 Daily & Sunday, 1 mo. \$1.00; 3 mos. \$2.50; 6 mos. \$4.50; 1 year, \$8.00.  
 Daily & Sunday, 1 mo. \$1.00; 3 mos. \$2.50; 6 mos. \$4.50; 1 year, \$8.00.  
 Sunday only, 6 months, 1.25; Sunday only, 1 year, 2.50.

**FOREIGN RATES—DAILY AND SUNDAY.**  
 One month, \$1.50; 3 months, \$4.00; 6 months, \$7.00; 1 year, \$12.00.  
 Sunday only, 6 months, 1.25; Sunday only, 1 year, 2.50.

Entered at the Postoffice at New York as Second Class Mail Matter.

You can purchase merchandise advertised in THE TRIBUNE with absolute safety—for if dissatisfaction results in any case THE TRIBUNE guarantees to pay your money back upon request. No red tape, no quibbling. We make good promptly if the advertiser does not.

## Do They Want Roosevelt?

Do the Republican leaders in Washington desire to make Theodore Roosevelt the Republican candidate for President in 1916? Do they desire to see Mr. Roosevelt nominated and elected?

Colonel Roosevelt's weaknesses are better known than those of any other American. The years since he left the White House have been years which have subtracted from rather than added to his stature as a public man. There have been times in the past three years when his fellow-countrymen have been almost convinced that his usefulness was at an end.

But in the last few months there has been no mistaking the fact that there has been a real change in public opinion, and men who were long and steadfastly opposed to Mr. Roosevelt as President and as a candidate are daily confessing to a change of opinion and feeling.

The reason is simple, and it is explained by an almost uniform statement. Thousands and thousands of Americans believe that if Theodore Roosevelt had been President of the United States there would have been no Lusitania tragedy. Those who hold that the tragedy was inevitable believe that without war and without peril of war Mr. Roosevelt would have obtained from Germany a disavowal and a guarantee against a repetition of the crime.

There is one point on which Mr. Roosevelt's strength has never been questioned. He is a patriotic, loyal, aggressive American. He has from the beginning of his life stood consistently and sturdily for an Americanism which is the natural outgrowth of the Americanism of 1775 and 1801. At all times, under all circumstances, without hesitation and without qualification, Colonel Roosevelt has championed, fought for, served, an ideal of national honor which came down to him from other generations of Americans.

In the present crisis in American history, when we are involved in a dispute with Germany because Germany has murdered American citizens, when we are facing a situation of anarchy and domestic strife at home, Colonel Roosevelt is the one American who has, without hesitation and without thought of the political effect of his words, spoken frankly.

Other public men have cavilled and cowered. They have not dared to say the invasion of Belgium was a crime, even though not a crime calling for political intervention on the part of the United States, because such a declaration would repel German-American votes. They have not dared to assert that all that America stood for in history and tradition was at stake on the European battlefield, and that our cause was the cause of France and of Great Britain. But Colonel Roosevelt has said it—is saying it. Other men in public life and office have mistaken the condition of neutrality for that of *neuter*, and the mistake flows from political anxieties and concern for hyphenate votes.

Now, if the Republican leaders in Washington believe that they can imitate Mr. Wilson, preserve a discreet silence upon the things that are uppermost in the minds and hearts of most Americans, keep the votes of the Americans without repulsing those of the German-Americans, invite to the Republican party the votes of those German-Americans who are angry at Mr. Wilson for the little he has done to preserve American self-respect, while enlisting the support of those who resent his course as cowardly, they are making a grave and a fatal mistake.

The issue of the next campaign will not be the tariff. It will not even be preparedness. It most assuredly will not be Mr. Wilson's Mexican policy. The issue of the next election will be the preservation of American honor abroad and American existence at home. The issue cannot be dodged, it cannot be escaped, it cannot be forgotten by mutual consent. Millions of American citizens in the last few weeks and months have awakened to the realization of the new conditions and perils that face the country. They are at last appreciating the shame and humiliation of a foreign policy based upon domestic political considerations. They are perceiving

the extent of pusillanimity among their politicians and of cowardice among their leaders.

In this situation there is one man who has neither compromised nor qualified. There is one man who has from the very outset expressed his convictions, his beliefs, his faith, and that man is Theodore Roosevelt. He has not stopped to consider whether he could get the German-American votes if he did not characterize the Belgian infamy. He has not reduced to districts and Congressmen the cost of defending American lives and honor. He has told the truth that was in him.

If the Republican leaders in the capital and the nation to-day are not willing to face the situation that exists; if they do not dare to put their party squarely on record on questions which affect national honor and national security; if they become silent partners in the conspiracy of national betrayal at Washington, believing that they will thus get the votes of the hyphenates while keeping those of patriotic Americans, they will wake some months hence to find that they have delivered themselves bound hand and foot to Theodore Roosevelt, and that they have permitted him to become the single figure in American public life identified with a policy of courage and patriotism which will appeal to the American people in the next campaign.

If the Republican leaders at Washington desire this thing to happen, there is nothing they need do now that they have not been doing for months. Their present policy is all that is required to make the nomination and election of Colonel Roosevelt inevitable. As the situation now stands, Colonel Roosevelt is the only man who can defeat Mr. Wilson, because he is the only man who has offered an honest substitute for Mr. Wilson's policy in the vital question of American honor abroad and security at home. If the Republican leaders cannot see this, they are blinder now than they were in 1912, and they will presently pay for their blindness in as complete a fashion.

Two generations ago a political party in this country strove to face both ways on a question of principle involving national safety and honor. As a consequence it perished. The Republican party can no more survive half American and half Hyphenate than could the Whig when it became half slave, half free. If the Republican leaders attempt to follow such a course one of two things will happen—either the party will be destroyed altogether or it will become the instrument for the election of Mr. Roosevelt.

**Panama Bonds and the Pay-as-You-Go Policy.**  
 The pay-as-you-go argument made by President Wilson in his Preparedness message contains a glaring *non-sequitur*. The President is anxious, apparently, to make the taxpayers of the country feel the full weight of the cost of military preparation, trusting to find in a reluctance to pay some justification for his own attempts to limit the scope of preparation.

He therefore opposes either the authorization of new bonds to meet the cost of real military reorganization or the sale of bonds already authorized for the purpose of repaying the Treasury the money which it has advanced out of the General Fund for Panama Canal construction. To excuse this refusal to collect a debt owed to the Treasury, and through it to the present generation of taxpayers, Mr. Wilson made this argument:

Borrowing money is short-sighted finance. It can be justified only when permanent things are to be accomplished, which many generations will certainly benefit by, and which it is hardly fair that a single generation should pay for. The objects we are now proposing to spend money for cannot be so classified, except in the sense that everything wisely done may be said to be done in the interest of posterity as well as in our own.

This line of reasoning absolutely defeats itself. Whatever may be thought of military preparation at this time as an investment for the benefit of future generations, no one can deny that the Panama Canal is such an investment. Congress never intended that the taxpayers of a single decade should pay the greater part of the cost of the Panama waterway. The canal act provided for the issue of bonds to the amount of \$375,000,000. Proceeds from the sale of bonds so far have amounted to \$134,631,980, and there is still due to the Treasury for cash advances \$221,531,719. Moreover, the Treasury has spent on the canal \$30,000,000 not reimbursable from bond issues, and if the administration has its way \$25,000,000 more, not reimbursable from bond sales, will be paid to the Republic of Colombia in satisfaction of claims arising out of the acquisition of the Canal Zone.

It would be a gross injustice to leave the vast sum of \$251,000,000, possibly \$276,000,000, saddled on the present generation, while presenting to succeeding generations a canal with a bonded debt of only \$135,000,000, able to pay its way and, with proper management, to return operating dividends.

The principle which Mr. Wilson cites of balancing the obligations of the generations which are to benefit from a permanent public work applies fully to the canal debt. The Treasury should be reimbursed through bond sales up to \$375,000,000—the amount fixed by Congress. That sum represents a part of the surplus taxation of the last decade. It is cash put aside and it may be legitimately employed now by the government to meet expenditures

for military preparedness. If we spend it we should not be borrowing from the future. We should be applying strictly the pay-as-you-go programme which Mr. Wilson favors, and this generation would be enabled thereby to avoid an unfair double taxation—first for the canal and then for a better army and navy.

What the President said does not justify a refusal to indemnify the Treasury for canal advances. On the contrary, it makes such an indemnification a matter both of equity and expediency.

## A Tax on Tabby.

A nation never knows the full extent of its resources until pushed by necessity to turn everything to account. Germany is finding a way to make wood both edible and palatable, to judge from some of the illuminating advertisements appearing in her newspapers, so that while the Black Forest lasts she can never go hungry. Great Britain has not yet been reduced to this substitute for shredded wheat, but a recent proposal in the House of Commons shows the necessity she is rapidly approaching of converting the luxuries of peace into the sinews of war. Briefly, Captain Charles Bathurst would have Parliament impose a tax of £1 on each cat in excess of one maintained by any given household, failure to pay the tax leading to the confiscation of pussy and its conversion into sealskin, or Persian lamb or ermine, for the lining of Tommy's winter overcoat.

Though cat lovers will stand aghast at this latest threatened horror of war, it must be confessed that the suggestion has its merits. People who support cats should be made to demonstrate in some substantial form the affection they profess for their or forever hold their peace. If their protestations possess only a small percentage of sincerity, Great Britain, in case Parliament thinks kindly of Captain Bathurst's proposal, should reap a small harvest in taxes. And then there are so many homeless tabbies and toms which might better be fighting for their country in the trenches than along the back fences of London that Mr. Atkins cannot fail to benefit from the measure, too.

If only he might be endowed also with the nine lives which should go with each skin!

## Drinks by the Card.

Nothing could be neater than the scheme of the National Defence Association for promoting temperance by law. If the coming Legislature accepts the plan, any person of either sex desirous of imbibing vinous, malt or spirituous liquors must obtain a license, price, \$1; family licenses covering a year, \$5. Each person, in ordering a drink, must present the card; no person may get a drink on another's card, and it will be a jail offence to obtain a drink on a borrowed license. Any bartender selling drinks without seeing the card will be subjected to extreme penalty; both buyer and seller are to go to jail if a drink is obtained by any person lacking a card. No drink must be sold to any person showing signs of intoxication. Any person arrested for drunkenness or treated by a physician for that condition twice within a year will have his license revoked; if a third time—defying all the horrendous penalties—he manages to get drunk, he is to be prohibited from drinking thenceforth forever. And, to make up to the saloons for the lack of revenue which will result, they are to be exempted from paying license fees.

Undoubtedly nothing more than this could be wished to reduce the state to a condition of abject and thoroughgoing temperance—if the population of the state were as used to legal restrictions and as completely under the command of the drill sergeant as Prussia. But this is America, the land of individuality, of enterprise and, alas! of contempt of law. Even Maine and Kansas have found that prohibition doesn't prohibit. Where there's a will there's a way. No moderate drinker would be helped under the scheme, and no so could be prevented from begging, borrowing, buying in quantity before ossification set in or stealing enough fire-water to satisfy his highest ambitions in the way of intoxication. Aside from the fact that the plan wouldn't work if the Legislature made it law, and the further fact that no Legislature of this state could be expected to make it law if it would work, it is highly to be commended.

## Berlin Shares Turkey's Guilt.

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
 Sir: George Macaulay Trevelyan, the author of that wonderful prose epic on the career of Garibaldi and the author also of other brilliant books, is well known in this country to a large circle of friends and to his readers. They may be interested in learning that the young historian has for three months been busy on the fighting line in Italy. He is in command of an ambulance corps comprising twenty-five American cars, with sixty picked volunteers, English and American. The ambulance command has been, so to speak, "actively engaged" on the Isonzo River. Trevelyan received a month or more back the formal thanks of the Italian commander, General Cadorna, for his distinctive service in carrying of the field, under active shell fire, more than five thousand wounded men. Trevelyan writes to his father, the historian, Sir George Otto Trevelyan, that he was that week working twenty hours in the twenty-four. He says that he and his comrades have "their hands full and therefore their souls are at peace."

He finds time, however, for indignant utterances in regard to the crushing of Serbia, and to what he calls the "murder of Armenia" by the ally of Prussia. Trevelyan, with direct knowledge of conditions in Constantinople, confirms the opinion that I had myself expressed, that a lift of the hand of the Prussian Ambassador in Constantinople would have stopped the massacres in Armenia. The continued existence of Turkey, the murderer of Europe, depends on the good will of Berlin, and this brings a very direct responsibility upon Berlin for the latest barbarities of the Turks.

GEORGE HAVEN PUTNAM.  
 New York, Dec. 10, 1915.

## AMERICAN SPIRIT TO-DAY

Quite Tamed, as Our President Rightly Conceives.

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
 Sir: Your editorials on the American foreign policy are most interesting, and also stimulating to patriotism. But I believe you have overlooked two significant factors in your analysis of the American attitude.

First—The Press of the United States may be said to reflect the emotional and mental trend of the people. Let us take the New York papers as an index of the sentiment of the American people. With the brilliant exception of the New York Tribune and one or two other leading papers, the sentiment of the Press appears to be against war, no matter what the provocation, and for peace at almost any price.

In support of this statement I refer to the editorial comments and headlines of most of the Eastern papers when Germany appeared to back down after the Arabic sinking. There was universal congratulation for President Wilson for what then appeared to be a great and bloodless diplomatic victory. The dominant note of the Press then was relief, tremendous relief, and perhaps gratitude for our escape from a situation that had threatened war. And the burden of that song of relief was not "Remember the Lusitania" but "Forget the Lusitania," if forgetfulness would keep us out of war.

Basing my opinion on the expressions of the majority of the New York newspapers and on the reactions of many New York audiences when war and peace were discussed, I am forced to believe that your conclusion is incorrect, that the majority of the American people want to avenge the Lusitania if vengeance means war.

Furthermore, I believe that the attitude of the American people in this world crisis, as defined by most of their representative newspapers, demonstrates that American psychology has undergone a profound change since the Civil War. We saw the beginnings of that change in the American attitude toward the Virginia affair in President Grant's time; also in the bitter opposition in 1898 to remembering the Maine. There could be no greater or more significant contrast than that between the American spirit of to-day toward foreign aggression and the American spirit of 1776, 1812, 1847 and 1864.

Secondly—In your criticism of President Wilson for his conduct of our foreign policy in Mexico and in Europe I believe that you have overlooked an important aspect of the Presidential function. A President is the leader, but also the servant of the people. A President may act on his own initiative in sudden emergencies where there is not time to find out the will of the people. At least, that is so in theory. But in the present situation the weight of the Press of the country is against war.

President Wilson has therefore no option but to obey the will of the people, or of most of the people, and he is faithfully doing so. That this is his attitude is shown by his change of front about preparedness. During the early months of the war our people showed no interest or desire for military strength; in fact, they were rather hostile to it. But when the change came—coinciding with the long series of German victories—and our people began to fear that our turn might come, and that it would be safer to arm for defence, President Wilson responded to the people's demand at once and began to work for preparedness.

The majority of the American people regret the Lusitania horror. But, as said before, they do not wish to avenge it by vengeance means war. Compared with the standard of 1776 this may not seem a noble one; but then standards change, and this seems to be the public attitude that now confronts the President, demanding that he act in accordance with it.

No. If the spirit of the American foreign policy of 1915 is not that of 1776, the responsibility does not lie with the President but with the changed American people, whose agent he is and whose will he must execute.

New York, Dec. 6, 1915.

## Our Humiliating Position.

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
 Sir: In this morning's Tribune there was a letter signed Benjamin Aphroth Gould which discussed the present humiliating position occupied by the American people. This is the finest and most manly letter I have ever read in a newspaper. The only opinion expressed which I criticize in any way is where he states that if, in his opinion, the American people were not nobler than the administration he would seek self-respect under an alien flag. In my opinion, as long as the American people consent to be held in their present humiliating position by one moral coward they are no nobler than he is; and if they consent to remain in this position until the end of the war, or a year from March, when the President will be changed, any American will be justified in seeking self-respect under an alien flag, as by so doing he will be proving his desire for self-respect.

A. E. CORTIS.  
 New York, Dec. 8, 1915.

## Fruitless Disavowal.

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
 Sir: Being in hearty accord with your editorial policy (so far as it goes) in condemnation of things Teutonic, and marking the controversy between The Tribune and "The World" regarding a "disavowal" in the case of the Lusitania, would it not be a good idea to ascertain what Wilson is going to do with this disavowal when he gets it? Obviously, it can't be "hocked" to provide monetary compensation for those bereaved; compensation would be of no value to those murdered, and there is one except a hyphenate who would hope that a disavowal would prevent a repetition of the offense?

Query: Why didn't Becker and the gunmen make a "disavowal"? Their attorneys must have overlooked a bet. E. H. McCULLOCH.  
 New York, Dec. 6, 1915.

## Not All Hyphenates.

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
 Sir: Does it not seem somewhat hysterical to speak of 20,000,000 Germans in this country, as one of your correspondents did? Is it not equally hysterical to speak of all the Germans in this country as hyphenates? On most of the Germans of my own acquaintance there is not the sign of a hyphen. Some of them are professed republicans, and came to this country because of that faith.

The press reports have it that many Germans are preparing to return to Germany after the war. Perhaps they are. But I'd like to bet that they don't.

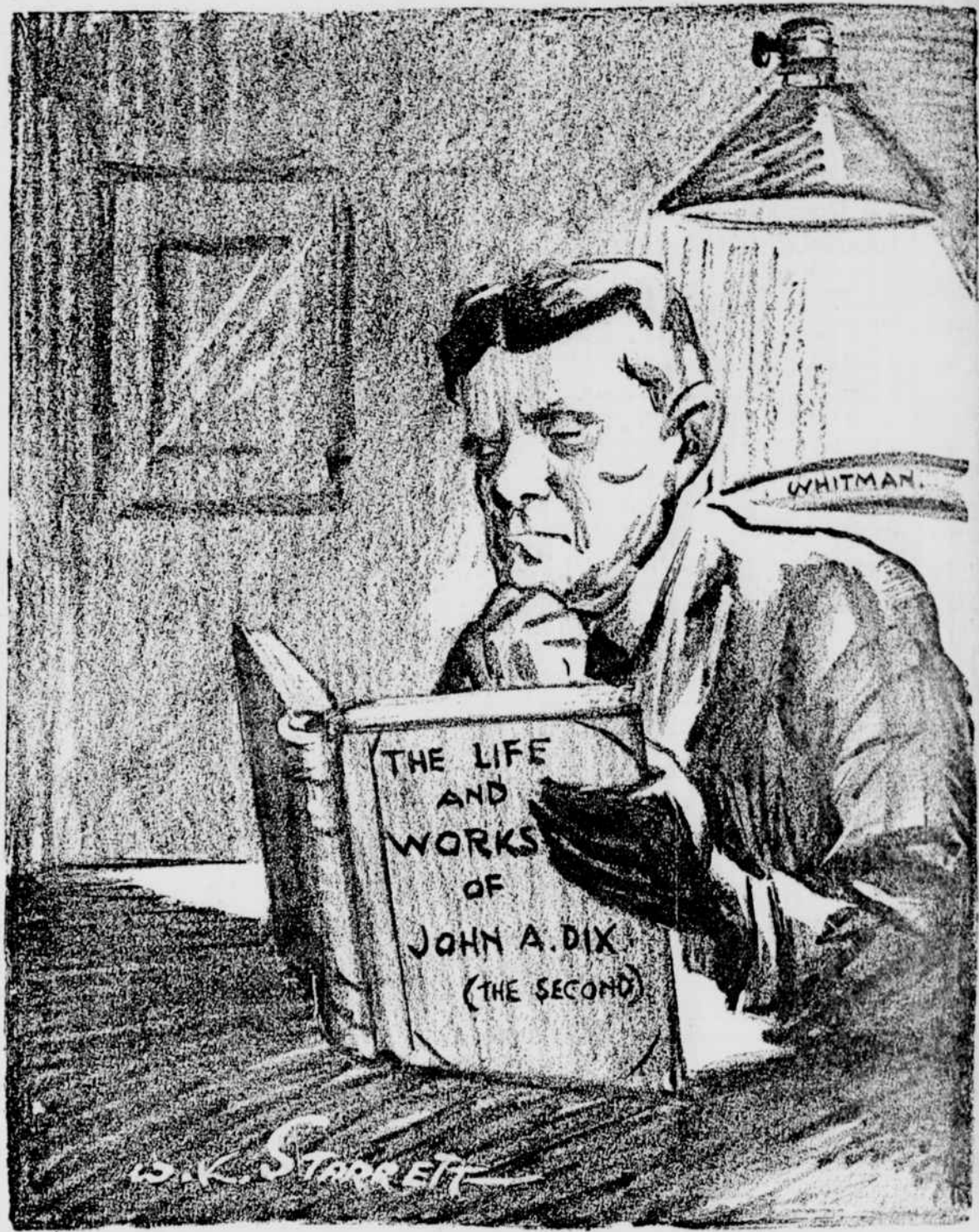
T. J. LLOYD.  
 Bloomingburg, N. Y., Dec. 5, 1915.

## On the Side of Right.

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
 Sir: I have ventured to criticize the length of time you kept your columns open to the utterances of the neo-copperheads. But your own editorial utterances go to the spot and give me joy. There are strenuous times ahead for the American people. Every man must push his pound on the side of right. I include a few ounces of mine. The unexpected may be our fate before we are prepared for the casting of the die.

GEORGE W. DITHRIDGE.  
 Hollis Terrace, Long Island, Dec. 4, 1915.

## INSPIRATION.



## MR. WILSON ON PREPAREDNESS

Consistency Not the Real Failing of the Administration's Policy.

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
 Sir: Your persistent editorial criticism of President Wilson has the effect on me that agnostic attacks on Christianity had on Gilbert K. Chesterton—namely, a conversion to the opposite side. Chesterton said that after reading agnostic literature he declared, "Alas! thou persuadest me to be a Christian." So as I rise from a reading of your editorials I feel myself saying, "Alas! thou persuadest me to be a Wilsonite." I did not vote for him, but I am increasingly glad that Theodore Roosevelt, for whom I did vote, was not elected.

Your latest editorial, "Mr. Wilson on Preparedness," in to-day's Tribune, criticizes the President for moving slightly in the direction in which you have criticized him during the entire year for not moving. Now, when he favors increased military and naval strength, you condemn him for inconsistency on the ground that he argued against it a year ago. Such criticism is so viciously partisan that it brings party paper criticism generally into contempt. As a matter of fact, your charge of inconsistency is not quite correct by your own quotation. You quote the President as saying a year ago that our dependence must not be on a standing army but on "a citizenry trained and accustomed to arms," and then proceed to charge him with inconsistency because now he pleads for greater strength in trained citizenry than in a standing army. Because he asks for 400,000 trained citizens instead of 250,000 soldiers in a standing army you condemn him because he does not believe, as you do, in a standing army. But if he had asked for a large standing army he would have been inconsistent with his message of a year ago, and you would have had reason to charge inconsistency, as you have now. Your only ground for the charge of inconsistency is that he did not present specific plans for preparedness in 1914 and he does present such plans now.

Yet all through the year you have been declaring that "new occasions" have taught "new duties," which Mr. Wilson has not performed. Now, when he seeks to perform such duties, consistently with the principle laid down a year ago, you blame him still.

It looks to me, Mr. Editor, as a constant reader of your editorials, that the Republican bent is so strong that you cannot see any good in a Democrat. You have never ceased to condemn American citizens of foreign birth who are not loyal to our government—which is proper enough. Would it not be well to practise a little editorial loyalty to the authorized head of our government instead of practising hyper-criticism with a view to discrediting the President in the eyes of all who read your paper?

W. W. T. DUNCAN.  
 Pastor James M. E. Church.  
 Brooklyn, Dec. 8, 1915.

[The editorial in question was not written as a condemnation of President Wilson for inconsistency. It said distinctly in the opening sentence: "The chief interest in President Wilson's message to Congress lies in the evidence or lack of evidence it offers of progress and education on his part."—Ed.]

## Mr. Wilson in Several Masks.

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
 Sir: An academical education has given Mr. Wilson unlimited command of language. Stars and comets dance through his addresses in all the mazes of metaphorical confusion; and his periods fall like music on our listening ears. It is perhaps regrettable that the inspiration is not always as admirable as its expression. Rhetoric is a good servant, but a bad master. Absorption in form may come to involve loss of substance.

Mr. Wilson's pathetic tribute to the American marines who lost their lives in Mexico has almost the beauty of a requiem mass, but mournful words, alas, cannot recall the dead or negative the consequences of mistaken action. If we seek to penetrate the verbiage that enshrouds the White House we come seemingly into the presence of several Mr. Wilsons—is this a result of delusive refraction?

There was the Mr. Wilson who summoned business men to the bar in terms of untem-

## OUR THREEFOLD DUTY

To Avoid Entanglement, Prepare and to Woo Latin America.

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
 Sir: All America seems divided into two parts—one blatantly pro-German, the other decisively pro-Ally. Why not emulate Gail and have three parts, one (be it ever so infinitesimal) pro-American?

For us citizens of a country untroubled as to size and enjoying the bounty of a benign nature to sit down and bitterly criticize Germany for unshackling her sword and fighting for her place in the sun, and to wax so sloppily sentimental in our ardent advocacy of the Allies' war for humanity and democracy, smacks of a smug and complacent hypocrisy.

Germany had prior to the war a population of some sixty-five millions cooped up in a territory requiring the most intensive labors to render partially productive. Her phenomenal commercial development was seriously hampered by a lack of seaports. She needed colonies where her youth could grow to manhood in the sanctified atmosphere of German Kultur, instead of emigrating to foreign countries and thereby being lost to the empire. But her every move was in the direction of a reasonable, and for a semi-vile nation a wholly necessary territorial development was checkmated at Downing Street. Germany faced at each turn the menace of the combined military and naval establishments of Russia, France and Great Britain. Realizing that war was inevitable, Germany struck first, and struck victoriously. Her cynical disregard of her pledged word and her retrogression to the methods of a barbarian era when warfare was wholly brutal, inhuman and depraved naturally alienated neutral sympathy.

Undoubtedly Germany's and Great Britain's means are different, but are not the ends sought equally imperialistic? Viewed from a detached perspective the imperialism of both seems entirely admirable; for nations cannot be judged by the same standard of morality as individuals, and traits which in the individual are debasing achieve grandeur when refined by national patriotism.

As an American, I prefer to see a decisive defeat of Prussian ambition for world dominion rather than a decisive victory of the Entente Powers that would give to England the hegemony of Europe. While a war between the United States and England seems inconceivable just now, the ideals and aspirations of two nations, however friendly, can never wholly parallel each other. Great Britain can hardly be expected to view with excessive enthusiasm the aggressive efforts of American capitalists to expand our trade in competition with her in foreign markets and thereby threaten her commercial supremacy. In the event of our becoming involved in a war with Japan would England feel impelled to extend her moral (if not surreptitiously her financial) support to her Nipponese ally?

Thus our duty is threefold: First, we should refrain from engaging in entangling alliances with European powers; second, we should enforce a large expansion of our naval and a judicious augmentation of our military strength; and, third, we should seek to extend our increasingly cordial relationship with our South American neighbors toward the creation of a real Pan-Americanism which would guarantee the inviolability of that masterpiece of American statesmanship, the Monroe Doctrine.

J. B. PHILLIPS, Jr.  
 East Orange, N. J., Dec. 5, 1915.

## Expectation from Above.

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
 Sir: Is there no law prohibiting expectation from the platforms of moving elevated trains, or is it due to laxity on the part of employees of the Interborough that such law is so flagrantly violated? Aside from the evils of spitting in general, I have often marvelled at the utter disregard of the exulting elevated travellers for the multitude passing to and fro below. Evidence of the habit on my hat this morning has at last moved me to complaint.

PEDESTRIAN.  
 New York, Dec. 2, 1915.

## Act on 'Bus Franchises.'

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
 Sir: Just a word regarding the awarding of additional franchises for motor bus operation, which I have followed in the daily papers. This matter has been delayed month after month. The Board of Estimate seems to consider the return to the city in dollars the most important factor. Surely the comfort, safety and all round service of the Fifth Avenue Coach Company to the residents of New York cannot be excelled by any company, and with the additional lines, as I understand them, the service will be most adequate.

The present service is good, so far as it goes, but it should be extended. When the present company proposes to do this, and in addition offers a sum amounting to millions, the Board of Estimate should act without delay.

Brooklyn, N. Y., Dec. 4, 1915.